

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-14 SCI-06

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0649

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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, TGEN, ENRG, FR, IR

SUBJECT: FRENCH-IRANIAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

REF: A. TEHERAN 5564 B. STATE 144763

SUMMARY: MFA AND CEA OFFICIALS CONFIRM THAT FRENCH-IRANIAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT HAS NOT YET TAKEN FINAL FORM BUT REQUIRES SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATION OF TECHNICAL AND COMMERCIAL DETAILS. AS OF NOW THE FRENCH WILL BUILD FIVE NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS, PROBABLY USING LIGHT WATER REACTORS AND GUARANTEE NECESSARY ENRICHMENT SERVICES. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO COMMISSARIAT A L'ENERGIE ATOMIQUE (CEA) DIRECTOR ANDRE GIRAUD AND MFA NUCLEAR AFFAIRS DIRECTOR ALLINE, THE FRENCH AND IRANIANS HAVE AGREED THAT FRANCE WILL BUILD FIVE 1000 MEGAWATT NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS IN IRAN, WILL GUARANTEE ENRICHMENT SERVICES FOR THEIR FUEL AND WILL ASSIST IN TRAINING IRANIAN PERSONNEL. THEIR ACCOUNTS ACCORD ENTIRELY WITH REF A. GIRAUD EMPHASIZED THAT NO DETAILS HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT YET AS THE

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AGREEMENT TOOK PLACE ON THE POLITICAL LEVEL. ALLINE

CONFIRMED THIS AND SAID HE WAS REASONABLY SURE THAT THE POWER STATIONS WOULD BE EQUIPPED WITH LIGHT WATER REACTORS, EITHER OF THE WESTINGHOUSE PRESSURIZED WATER VARIETY OR OF THE GENERAL ELECTRIC BOILING WATER VARIETY. DETAILS LIKE THE SOURCE OF NUCLEAR FUEL, REPROCESSING FUEL FABRICATION AND STORAGE OF PLUTONIUM ARE YET TO BE AGREED UPON.

2. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM BOTH SIDES WILL MEET NOT BEFORE 1976 TO DEVELOP THE TECHNICAL AND COMMERCIAL FRAMEWORK OF THE AGREEMENT. COMPLETION OF PLANTS IS NOT EXPECTED UNTIL THE 1985 TIME FRAME. PROPOSED AGREEMENTS CALL FOR A "TURN KEY" CONSTRUCTION, COMPLETE WITH TRAINING OF PERSONNEL. HOWEVER, BECAUSE ELECTRICITE DE FRANCE HAS ALWAYS RETAINED A MANAGERIAL ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRENCH LIGHT WATER REACTORS, NEITHER FRENCH CONSTRUCTOR, FRAMATOME OR CGE, HAS EXPERIENCE IN TURN KEY CONSTRUCTION. THEREFORE EDF IS EXPECTED TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE PROPOSED IRANIAN PROJECTS.

IRWIN

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